

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FRASER, DONALD M.)

SUBJECT: CODEL FRASER MEETS WITH KIM YONG-SAM

BEGIN SUMMARY: CODEL MET WITH NDP CHAIRMAN KIM YONG-SAM AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE MARCH 31. KIM WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ROKG AND SAID THAT MANY KOREANS BELIEVED PRESIDENT PAK'S REPRESSIVE MEASURES HAD "UNDERSTANDING" OF USG. KIM ASSERTED THAT PUBLIC US THREAT TO TERMINATE AID AND TROOP PRESENCE WOULD BRING DESIRED STEPS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL LED OFF MARCH 31 DISCUSSION WITH NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM BY ASKING WHETHER KOREAN PEOPLE VIEWED US AS IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, EMERGENCY MEASURES, AND RECENT ANTI-SLANDER LAW. KIM REPLIED THAT THERE WAS WIDE BELIEF, WHICH HE HIMSELF DID NOT SHARE, THAT SUCH IMPORTANT MEASURES WERE UNDERTAKEN BY ROKG AFTER PRIOR "UNDERSTANDING" ON PART OF USG. KIM SAID THIS BELIEF HAD CONTRIBUTED TO RESENTMENT AMONG MANY PERSONS AGAINST US. IN THE LONG RUN, HE SAID, PAK REGIME WOULD COLLAPSE, TURMOIL WOULD ENSUE, AND ANTI-AMERICANISM WOULD RESULT FROM US FAILURE TO HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT MODERATION
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OF PAK REGIME. IN THIS REGARD, KIM COMMENTED THAT

US-PROVIDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN USED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE CITED TANKS WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING WHEN MARTIAL LAW DECLARED IN 1972.

2. CODEL ASKED WHETHER A REDUCTION IN US AID MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO MODERATION OF ROKG'S POLICIES, KIM REPLIED THAT HE FAVORED CONTINUED US AID, "THE MORE THE BETTER," AND A CONTINUED US TROOP PRESENCE. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE USEFULNESS OF THE FRASER AMENDMENT, HE SAID THAT MANY KOREANS HAD FELT THE AMENDMENT TO BE AN UNFORTUNATE PLACING OF A PRICE TAG ON KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT HAD HAD THE EFFECT OF SHAMING THE GOVERNMENT AND COULD BE CONSIDERED A STIMULUS TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS. IN REPLY TO A FURTHER QUESTION, KIM SAID THAT THE STIMULUS WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATER HAD THE AMOUNT OF AID WITHHELD BEEN GREATER.

3. IN ANY EVENT, KIM SAID, THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA DEPENDED ON THE MAJOR POINT AT ISSUE, THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION. SINCE IT PERMITS THE PRESIDENT TO RULE, IN EFFECT, INDEFINITELY AND WITHOUT THE HOLDING OF REAL ELECTIONS, IT ALLOWS PAK TO TRAMPLE ON THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS. KIM BERATED THE ROKG FOR OVERPLAYING THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH. ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE AGGRESSIVENESS OF PYONGYANG, HE SAW NO REAL DANGER OF AN INVASION.

4. CODEL ASKED KIM WHAT HE THOUGHT THE US COULD DO TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTION. KIM REPLIED THAT THE USG SHOULD PUBLICLY DECLARE THAT UNLESS PAK CHANGES THE CONSTITUTION AND RESTORES DEMOCRACY TO KREA, THE US WILL CUT OFF ALL AID AND REMOVE ITS TROOPS. PAK WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO GIVE WAY BEFORE SUCH A THREAT. ASKED BY CODEL WHAT THE USG COULD THEN DO IF PAK REFUSED TO ACCEDE TO THESE DEMANDS, KIM REPLIED THAT REFUSAL WAS TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION. FACED BY THE THREAT OF A US

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WITHDRAWAL, THE ROK ARMY AND OTHER SEGMENTS OF PAK'S BASE OF SUPPORT WOULD EITHER FORCE HIM TO ACCEPT US DEMANDS OR WOULD DRIVE HIM FROM POWER.

5. ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR KOREA OVER THE NEXT

FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, KIM REPLIED THAT THE PAK GOVERNMENT HAD NO CHANCE TO SURVIVE THAT LONG. PRIOR TO THAT

TIME, THERE WOULD BE SOME KIND OF INCIDENT LEADING TO PAK'S DOWNFALL AND POSSIBLY HIS DEATH. HE EXPECTED THAT A CHAOTIC AND PERHAPS BLOODY SERIES OF EVENTS WOULD FOLLOW, WHICH THE NORTH COULD EXPLOIT.

6. CODEL ASKED WHETHER THE ROKG INTERFERED WITH THE NDP. KIM REPLIED THAT THERE WAS CONSTANT HARASSMENT, INVOLVING SURVEILLANCE AND POLICE QUESTIONING. WORST ASPECT OF HARASSMENT WAS PRESSURING ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO PARTY THROUGH POLICE THREATS AND INCOME TAX AUDITS. KIM SAID THAT APART FROM KEEPING TABS ON HIS WHEREABOUTS, THE POLICE DID NOT PERSONALLY HARASS HIM.
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